

defence system to protect the territories of the United States and the Russian Federation from missile attacks by third countries. However, Government have seen press reports regarding a proposal made by the Russian President for a joint US-Russia-Europe limited missile defence system, consistent with the bilateral 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty. This would be an alternative to the US plans for a National Missile Defence which Russia maintains are inconsistent with the ABM treaty, could threaten strategic stability, progress on arms control and trigger a new arms race.

(c) India has consistently opposed weaponisation of outer space, described in international treaty law as the common heritage of all mankind. Government believes that arms control treaties need to be implemented fully and in good faith to maintain stability. Unilateral actions perceived to be inconsistent with existing treaties may reduce the prospects for further nuclear disarmament, a goal to which India is firmly committed, weaken non-proliferation, constraints and encourage other nuclear weapon states to reconsider their strategic force modernization plans.

Breach of Dams Constructed by Chinese Authorities

2104. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recent flash flood in Arunachal Pradesh is attributed to breach of a dams constructed by Chinese authorities in the upper stream of Brahmaputra;

(b) if so, the details of thereof and action taken in this direction; and

(c) the response received, if any, from the Chinese counterpart?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) Following the recent flash flood in Arunachal Pradesh in June, 2000, the matter was taken up with the Chinese Government. They conveyed that there was no dam on the Chinese side on the river Brahmaputra and attributed the occurrence of floods on the Indian side, to natural causes.